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Welcome to the "EdLabor Insider" e-newsletter! In this issue:

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### **Title IX: Bush Administration Continues to Undercut Girls' School Sports Programs**

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This week, the full Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing to highlight the value of sports in youth character development. Committee Democrats took the opportunity to discuss the ways the Bush administration has rolled back Title IX, the landmark law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs, including sports programs. Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a law school professor, Olympic champion and former president of the Women's Sports Foundation, testified about how sports participation and physical activity are solutions for many of the serious health and social problems suffered by American girls. Last year the Bush administration created a loophole in Title IX policy, allowing schools to use an e-mail survey to determine sports interest among girls, putting the burden on female students to show they are entitled to an equal opportunity. Democrats support Title IX and have [asked President Bush to close this loophole](#) .

### **Student Loan Consolidation and College Affordability E-Forum Deadlines Are Here**

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Today is the last day possible to [consolidate student and parent loans](#) before higher interest rates kick in on Saturday, July 1. It's also your last chance to submit testimony to our [College Affordability E-Forum](#) . Don't delay!

### **Bush Administration Makes It Harder for Welfare Recipients to Find Work**

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It will now be more difficult for families on welfare to find work as a result of new regulations adopted by President Bush's Department of Health and Human Services this week. The regulations make it harder for adults on welfare to participate in English as a Second Language and Adult Literacy programs, which help welfare recipients find and be successful in jobs. The regulations will also place new strains on already overwhelmed state child care systems as more welfare recipients enter the workforce. Democrats believe that education and training and support services such as child care are essential to successfully moving people off of the welfare rolls and into the job market. ([more](#) )

## **Outrage of the Week: Republicans Hike Student Loan Rates When Families Need Loans More Than Ever**

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Tomorrow, interest rates for all new federal student and parent college education loans will rise, thanks to [legislation](#) passed by Republicans. Consider that about 8 million people borrowed \$60 million in federal education loans this year. Democrats believe that higher education is vital to America's global success, and will continue the fight to cut these rates [in half](#) .

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